AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims supersedes all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A distributed storage network comprising a plurality of interconnected computers, said computers including a plurality of host computers, each having a store for data items, and at least one client computer, wherein said client computer stores client code comprising:

a) storage initiation code executable to initiate storage of a data item [[on]] in one or more of said ~~plurality of~~ host computers' stores;

b) storage condition generation code executable to generate one or more interpretable storage conditions indicating characteristics of host computer[[s]] stores suitable for storing said data item;

c) storage condition sending code executable to send said one or more interpretable storage conditions to one or more of said host computers;

wherein each of said host computers stores host code including:

d) storage condition reception code executable to receive said one or more interpretable storage conditions from said client computer or another of said host computers;

[[c)]] e) host computer store characteristic provision code executable to ~~measure and then~~ provide host storage characteristic data indicating one or more characteristics of said host computer's stores;

[[d)]] f) storage condition interpreter code executable to interpret said one or more interpretable storage conditions in the light of said ~~one or more~~ host storage characteristic[[s]] data provided by said host computer and thereby to establish whether said host computer's store meets said storage conditions;

[[e)]] g) data item storage code executable to store said data item in said host computer's store on the execution of said condition interpreter code finding that said host computer meets said storage conditions ~~requirements~~; and

~~f) data item~~ h) storage condition forwarding code executable, on the execution of said condition interpreter code finding that the host computer's store does not meet said storage conditions, to forward ~~said data item and~~ said storage conditions to another of said host computers.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) A distributed storage network according to claim 1 in which at least one of said computers stores both said client code and said host code.

6. (Previously Presented) A distributed storage network according to claim 1 in which said one or more interpretable storage conditions are persistently stored at one or more of said computers.

7. (Original) A distributed storage network according to claim 6 wherein said persistent storage is provided by a database stored at each of said one or more computers providing persistent storage of said interpretable storage conditions.

8. (Currently Amended) A distributed storage network according to claim 6 in which one or more computers further stores storage condition editor code executable to provide a user with an interface enabling the user to update said interpretable storage conditions or to record new interpretable storage conditions.

9. (Currently Amended) A distributed storage network according to claim 8 in which said client computer further stores said storage condition editor code.

10. (Currently Amended) A distributed storage network according to claim 1 in which said storage condition interpreter code interprets said one or more interpretable storage conditions using schema data which indicates a common structure for said interpretable storage conditions.

11. (Currently Amended) A distributed storage network according to claim 1 in which said interpretable storage conditions form a component of a rules data structure which further includes action data indicating actions to be carried out by one of said computers on said host computer store meeting said one or more interpretable storage conditions.

12. (Currently Amended) A distributed storage network according to claim 11 in which said rules data structure forms a component of a policy data structure which further includes event data indicating one or more events which must take place in order to trigger the execution of said storage condition interpreter code.

13. (Currently Amended) A distributed storage network according to claim 1 in which said host storage ~~computer~~ characteristic[[s]] data include stored data item description data which describes data items already stored [[at]] in said host computer store.

14. (Previously Presented) A distributed storage network according to claim 1 in which said interconnected computers comprise computers having differing hardware architectures and operating system programs stored thereon, each of said computers

further storing common machine emulation code executable to translate code executable on said common machine to code executable on the hardware architecture and operating system of the machine on which the emulation code is executed.

15. (Currently Amended) A distributed storage network comprising:

a plurality of interconnected computers, each computer being operable to store data in one or more stores ~~memories~~ under the control of said computer;

each of said computers having access to processor executable code, said code comprising:

a) storage initiation code executable to initiate storage of a data item in one or more of said computers' stores;

b) storage condition generation code executable to generate one or more interpretable storage conditions indicating characteristics of one or more computer stores suitable for storing said data item;

c) storage condition sending code executable to send said one or more interpretable storage conditions to another of said computers;

d) storage condition reception code executable to receive one or more interpretable storage conditions from another of said computers;

e) computer store characteristic provision code executable to provide storage characteristic data indicating one or more characteristics of said computer's store;

f) storage condition interpreter code executable to interpret said one or more interpretable storage conditions in the light of said storage characteristic data provided by said computer and thereby to establish whether the computer's store meets said storage conditions;

g) data item storage code executable to store said data item in said computer's store on the execution of said storage condition interpreter code finding the computer's store meets said storage conditions; and

h) storage condition forwarding code executable, on the execution of said condition interpreter code finding that said computer's store does not meet said storage conditions, to forward said storage conditions to another of said computers

~~a) data item reception code processable to receive a data item;~~

~~b) data item storage requirements discovery code processable to find one or more requirements relating to said data item;~~

~~c) storage information provision code processable to measure and then provide storage information concerning one or more memories of said computer;~~

~~d) comparison code processable to compare said data item storage requirements with said storage information provided by said computer;~~

~~e) storage decision code processable to decide whether to store said data item in said one or more memories in dependence upon said comparison; and~~

~~f) data item storage code processable to store said data item at said host computer on execution of said storage decision code finding that said computer meets said storage conditions; and~~

~~g) data item forwarding code executable to forward said data item and said storage condition to another of said host computers on execution of said storage decision code finding that said computer does not meet said storage conditions~~.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a network of interconnected computers, said computers including a plurality of host computers, each having a store for data items, and a least one client computer, said method including ~~the steps of~~:

operating said client computer to:

a) initiate storage of a data item [[on]] in one or more of said ~~plurality of~~ host computer[[s]] stores; and

b) generate one or more interpretable storage conditions indicating characteristics of host computer[[s]] stores suitable for storing said data item;

c) send said one or more interpretable storage conditions to one or more of said host computers;

operating said host computer to:

d) receive said one or more interpretable storage conditions from said client computer or another of said host computers;

[[c)]] e) ~~measure and then~~ provide host storage characteristic data indicating one or more characteristics of said host computer's store;

[[d)]] f) interpret said one or more interpretable storage conditions in the light of said ~~one or more~~ host storage characteristic[[s]] data provided by said host computer store and thereby to establish whether said host computer's store meets said storage conditions;

[[e)]] g) store said data item [[at]] in said host computer's store on finding that said host computer's store meets said storage conditions; and

[[f)]] h) forward ~~said data item and~~ said storage conditions to another of said host computers on finding that the host computer's store does not meet said storage conditions.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing code executable to carry out method steps a), b) and [[b)]] c) of claim 16.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing code executable to carry out method steps ~~c), d) and e)~~ d) through h) of claim 16.

19. (Original) A computer readable storage medium storing code executable to carry out the method steps of claim 16.

20. (Currently Amended) A host computer configured to be part of a distributed storage network comprising a plurality of interconnected computers including a plurality of host computers, each having a store for data items, and at least one client computer storing client code including storage initiation code executable to initiate storage of a data item [[on]] in one or more of said ~~plurality of host computers~~ stores and storage condition generation code executable to generate one or more interpretable storage conditions indicating characteristics of ~~host computers~~ stores suitable for storing said data item, said host computer storing host code including:

a) storage condition reception code executable to receive said one or more interpretable storage conditions from said client computer or another of said host computers;

[[a)]] b) host computer storage characteristic provision code executable to ~~measure and then~~ provide host storage characteristic data indicating one or more characteristics of said host computer's store;

[[b)]] c) storage condition interpreter code executable to interpret said one or more interpretable storage conditions in the light of said ~~one or more~~ host storage characteristic[[s]] data provided by said host computer and thereby to establish whether said host computer's store meets said storage conditions;

[[c)]] d) data item storage code executable to store said data item in said host computer's store on the execution of said condition interpreter code finding that said host computer's store meets said storage conditions ~~requirements~~; and

[[d)]] e) ~~data item~~ storage condition forwarding code executable, on the execution of said storage condition interpreter code finding that the host computer's store does not meet said storage conditions, to forward ~~said data item and~~ said storage conditions to another of said host computers.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a host computer configured to be part of a distributed storage network comprising a plurality of interconnected computers including a plurality of host computers, each having a data store for data items, and at least one client computer storing client code including storage initiation code executable to initiate storage of a data item [[on]] in one or more of said stores ~~plurality of host computers~~ and storage condition generation code executable to generate one or more interpretable storage condition[[s]] indicating characteristics of host computer's stores ~~computers~~ suitable for storing said data item, said method comprising operating said host computer to:

a) receive said one or more interpretable storage conditions from said client computer or another of said host computers;

b) ~~a) executing host computer characteristic provision code to measure and then~~ provide host storage characteristic data indicating one or more characteristics of said host computer's stores;

[[b)]] c) ~~executing condition interpreter code to~~ interpret said ~~one or more~~ host storage characteristic[[s]] data provided by said host computer and thereby to establish whether said host computer's store meets said storage conditions;

[[c)]] d) ~~executing data item storage code to~~ store said data item in said host computer on said interpretation of said storage conditions ~~the execution of said condition interpreter code~~ finding that said host computer's store meets said storage conditions ~~requirements~~; and

[[d)]] e) ~~executing data item forwarding code, on the execution of said condition interpreter code~~ forward said storage conditions to another of said host computers, on said interpretation of said storage conditions finding that the host computer's store does not meet said storage conditions~~, to forward said data item and said storage condition to another of said host computers~~.

22. (New) A distributed storage network as in claim 1 wherein the data item is forwarded with the storage condition in step h).

23. (New) A method as in claim 15 wherein the data item is forwarded with the storage condition in step h).

24. (New) A method as in claim 16 wherein the data item is forwarded with the storage condition in step h).

25. (New) A host computer as in claim 20 wherein the data item is forwarded with said storage condition in step e).

26. (New) A method as in claim 21 wherein the storage condition is forwarded with said data item in step e).